

their ancient father protects their
 (light-giving)
 work: Soma the all-enveloper has
 overspread the
 mighty firmament (with them) : the
 skilful (priests)
 are able to conduct (the *Soma*) to the all-
 sustaining
 (waters).

4. (The *Soma* rays) in the firmament of
 a thou-
 sand streams (unite with the earth)
 below; in the
 summit of heaven, sweet-tongued,
 in separate
 drops, his rays,¹ swiftly moving, never
 shut their
 eyes;² fixed each in his place,
 they are the
 molesters (of sinners).³

5. (The rays) which were manifested in
 heaven
 and earth, illumined by the hymn
 (of praise),
 consuming the impious (sacrificers),
 drive away
 "by their wisdom from earth and heaven
 the black-
 skinned (*Eakshascis*) hated by INDEA.

axx. 6. (The rays) which regulating
 praise and pur-
 posing celerity were manifested from
 the ancknt

thunder, and the rays of the Soma refer
 either to the moon
 or to the Soma juices identified with the rain.

¹ Sayana explains *spas&h* as *sdrabJiiLtd*
rasmayali, but the
 ordinary meaning of " spies " or "warders" would
 make hetter
 sense.

² Sayana adds: "but always keep watch to
 know the evil
 and the good, or always keep on the alert as

kings do to
guard against enemies."

³ Bather, "in every place there are barriers
strewn with
snares" (to keep off and catch the wicked or the
Eakshasas),
or "prisons filled with fetters." Cf. YII. 4.
10, and IX.